

Message Text

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44

ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DLOS-03 ACDA-05 CIEP-01 OES-03 FMC-01

INT-05 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 CG-00 IO-10 EB-04 COME-00

NSF-01 DOTE-00 /083 W

----- 013613

R 181300Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1531

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIS PLOS KU

SUBJ: GOK STATEMENT ON FISHING LIMITS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF STATE ABD AL-AZIZ AL-HUSSAIN WHICH FEATURED ON KUWAIT RADIO AND IN PRESS, GOK SAID NOV 17 IT WOULD IGNORE ALL CLAIMS BY COUNTRIES TO EXCLUSIVE FISHING RIGHTS BEYOND THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIAL LIMITS. HUSSAIN DID NOT IDENTIFY ANY SPECIFIC COUNTRIES. HE SAID KUWAIT

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CONSIDERED THESE CLAIMS AS OBJECTIONABLE IN TERMS INTERNATIONAL

LAW, SPECIFICALLY GENEVA AGREEMENT ON THE SEAS OF 1958. HUSSAIN ASSERTED THAT TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF A COUNTRY ARE SUBJECT TO THE GENEVA PROVISION FOR FREEDOM OF FISHING BY VESSELS OF ANY COUNTRY WITHOUT EXCEPTION. HE ADDED KUWAIT WILL NOT CONSIDER ITSELF COMMITTED BY ANY DECLARATION VIOLATING THESE INTERNATIONAL LAWS.

END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: GOK POSITION NOT SURPRISING. KUWAIT HAS SHORT COASTLINE BUT RELATIVELY LARGE AND WIDELY DISPERSED FISHING FLEET. ALTHOUGH GOK SPOKESMAN AVOIDED EXPLICIT MENTION OF SPECIFIC COUNTRIES, BELIEVE STATEMENT WAS MADE IN REACTION TO RECENT MOVES BY IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND QATAR TO EXTEND EXCLUSIVE FISHING JURISDICTIONS FROM THEIR COASTS. IF ENFORCED, THESE EXTENSIONS COULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE KUWAITI FREEDOM TO FISH IN GULF WATERS. INTERESTINGLY, WE UNDERSTAND UNITED FISHERIES COMPANY, LARGEST KUWAITI COMMERCIAL FISHING COMPANY, HAS WORKED OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH IRAN TO CONTINUE TO FISH ON IRANIAN SIDE OF GULF. THOUGH NOT IMMEDIATELY RELEVANT TO KUWAITI CONCERNS, UNILATERAL EXTENSION BY US OF EXCLUSIVE FISHING JURISDICTION OF US, AS PROPOSED BY SOME IN CONGRESS, WOULD BE OBJECTED TO BY GOK ON LEGAL GROUNDS NOTED ABOVE. STOLTZFUS

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30 JUN 2005

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